

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action it is indicated that a Request for Continued Examination has been filed. Applicant appreciates that its submission filed on 2/13/04 has been entered.

In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10, 18, 19, 27, 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakaguci et al (US Pat 6574080), stating:

“As per claims 1, 2, 10, 18, 19, 27, 30-32, Sakaguci et al ‘080 shows a spin valve MR head in figure 2A that has: a free magnetic layer 4 with a planar upper surface that extends across the central and end regions of the free layer 4; an anti-parallel coupled magnetic layer structure (elements 200 1-2005) being directly disposed upon the upper surface of the free layer 4 at the outer end regions thereof wherein there are two anti-parallel coupled magnetic layers 2002/2004 (also, as per claim 31, the seed layer 2001 is placed directly on the end portions of the free layer 4); thin film nonmagnetic layer 2003; and the net biasing magnetic field is in the same direction as the free layer magnetization in order to longitudinally bias the free layer 4 (see col. 7, lines 18-60).”

Responsive thereto, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and reformatted objected to claim 3 as an independent claim. Claims 2 and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 3. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled independent claim 18 and reformatted objected to claim 20 to be in independent claim format. Claims 19 and 27 have been amended to depend from claim 20. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled independent claim 30 and Applicant has reformatted claim 31 to be in independent claim format. Additionally, with regard to claim 31, Applicant has added the limitation that the seed layer is comprised of a magnetic material. This limitation is similar to a limitation set forth in objected to claim 3, and Applicant submits that the cited prior art fails to anticipate the use of a magnetic seed layer in a magnetic head as is described in amended independent claim 31. Regarding rejected dependent claim 32, Applicant submits that it is now allowable in that it depends from allowable independent base claim 31.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that this ground of rejection has been satisfied by the amendments to the claims set forth above.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10, 18, 19, 27, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakaguci et al (US Pat 6633466), stating:

“As per claims 1, 2, 10, 18, 19, 27, 30, Sakaguci et al ‘466 shows a spin valve MR head in figure 1 C that has: a free magnetic layer 4 with a planar upper

surface that extends across the central and end regions of the free layer 4; an anti-parallel coupled magnetic layer structure (elements 6-8) being directly disposed upon the upper surface of the free layer 4 at the outer end regions thereof wherein there are two anti-parallel coupled magnetic layers 6, 8; thin film nonmagnetic layer 7; and the net biasing magnetic field is in the same direction as the free layer magnetization in order to longitudinally bias the free layer 4 (see all of col. 5 through line 16 of col. 6).”

Responsive thereto, Applicant asserts that the amendments described in response to the rejection in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, also satisfy this ground of rejection. Specifically, Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and reformatted objected to claim 3 as an independent claim. Claims 2 and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 3. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled independent claim 18 and reformatted objected to claim 20 to be in independent claim format. Claims 19 and 27 have been amended to depend from claim 20. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled independent claim 30 and Applicant has reformatted claim 31 to be in independent claim format. Additionally, with regard to claim 31, Applicant has added the limitation that the seed layer is comprised of a magnetic material. This limitation is similar to a limitation set forth in object to claim 3, and Applicant submits that the cited prior art fails to anticipate the use of a magnetic seed layer in a magnetic head as is now described in amended independent claim 31. Regarding rejected dependent claim 32, Applicant submits that it is now allowable in that it depends from allowable independent base claim 31.

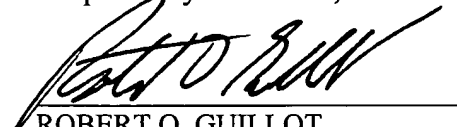
Applicant therefore respectfully submits that this ground of rejection has been satisfied by the amendments to the claims set forth above.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 3-9, 11, 12, 20-26, 28, 29, 33-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter. As described hereabove, Applicant has reformatted previously dependent claims 3, 20 and 31 to be in independent claim format. Additionally, Applicant has amended the dependency of dependent claims 2, 10, 19 and 27 to be dependent, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 3, 20 or 31. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the objected to claims have now been placed in condition for allowance.

Having responded to all of the paragraphs of the Office Action, and having amended the claims accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: June 30, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on June 30, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
Date: June 30, 2004


Patricia Beilmann